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This Allotment Management Plan (AMP) is the action plan for managing the forage resource and livestock grazing on these sheep allotments. It is composed of five sections: Introduction, Management Direction, Livestock Grazing System, Rangeland Developments, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Maps and Appendices.

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

The 69,000 acre Anchustegui Allotment Complex is located about 15 miles north of Fairfield, Idaho along the southern edge of the Smoky Mountains within the Sawtooth National Forest boundary. The elevation on the allotment varies from 6,000 feet to over 9,700 feet above sea level. Grazable slopes on lower elevation range are mostly gentle and vary from 0 to 30 percent gradient. Higher elevation range is usually much steeper and normally varies from 30 to 60 percent gradient. Slopes up to 60 percent are normally considered suitable for sheep grazing. Annual precipitation for this area averages 16 to 30 inches and about 75 percent of this occurs as snow. The Forest Service administers grazing on these National Forest allotments.

Past range analysis indicates that most of the uplands on the allotment meet the desired vegetative condition, or the vegetative trend is moving toward the desired condition class. Riparian vegetation at designated monitoring areas (DMA) within the allotment is considered to be at a mid-seral or higher successional status and streams are considered to be meeting or moving towards their proper functioning condition. Grazing using adaptive management practices combined with grazing according to Forest Plan standards, especially within the riparian zones, is expected to achieve or maintain Forest Plan goals, objectives, and desired conditions.

## **II. MANAGEMENT DIRECTION**

### **Forest Plan Management Goals:**

1. Maintain vigorous, reproductive stands of aspen and manage them to achieve age class diversity, adequate regeneration, and no net loss of stand acreage. Retain adequate ground cover in the aspen understory for soil protection.
2. Maintain a moderate to high vegetative resource value for livestock and big game on uplands.
3. Maintain plants with moderate to high values for watershed protection and meet the desired condition for ground cover within the allotment's sagebrush communities.
4. Control or eradicate Priority I and II noxious weed infestations as they occur on the allotment. (Canada thistle exists but it is a Priority III noxious weed.)
5. Maintain desired levels of ground cover (vegetation, litter, and rock) for each upland or riparian vegetative community classified as suitable for livestock grazing to prevent erosion that would exceed the natural erosion rate or the soil loss tolerance.
6. Maintain or increase levels of hydric species such as sedges, rushes, and willows in riparian corridors and wet meadows.

## Allotment Management Objectives

- 1) Maintain or improve the health, vigor, and diversity of upland forage quality. Achievement of this objective is based on the ecological processes associated with soil productivity and ecological health. The following desired conditions are identified as indicators of meeting this objective.

a) Effective Ground Cover (EGC) for Upland Sites

Land Type	EGC (%)
R1	70-90
B1A	70-85
M3B	70-90
M6A	70-85
M4C	80-85
M2	80-95
M3C	80-90
M3A	70-90

b) Desired Sagebrush Cover (Mountain Big Sagebrush)

Canopy Cover Class	0 to 10%	11% to 20%	>20%	>30%
Desired Sagebrush Cover	30 to 40% of area	30 to 40% of area	20 to 30% of area	5% or less

c) Aspen. (DBH = diameter @ breast height)

- Aspen dominates the overstory canopy (aspen > 8" DBH). Over 2/3rds of the overstory is composed of aspen.
- Aspen dominates the mid-level canopy (aspen 1-8" DBH). Over 2/3rds of this level canopy is composed of aspen.
- There is significant aspen regeneration occurring to support a healthy stand. The stand has over 500 stems per acre < 1 inch DBH with less than 20% having multiple leaders or are hedged from browsing.
- Less than 20% of the stand contains sagebrush.

d) Livestock Forage & Watershed Condition. Moderate to high resource value ratings occur for livestock forage, big game forage, and watershed protection.

e) Riparian Vegetation:

- Greenline successional status rating of 51 or greater (upper mid-seral or greater). (Winward 2000)
- Greenline Bank Stability Rating of 6 or greater (upper mid-seral or greater). (Winward 2000)

Riparian vegetation plant communities cover about 1,000 acres or 1.5% of the allotment. While this is a small portion of the allotment, it is probably the most important area of resource concern related to livestock grazing management. This objective identifies direction

to: “Restore hydric and woody shrub species composition and density in bottom riparian areas where vegetation has been altered by livestock grazing.”

Overall, most streams and riparian areas are maintaining desired conditions, but these streams are prone to sheep grazing impacts especially if management does not comply with Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines or Term Grazing Permit Terms and Conditions.

Allotment inspections do not indicate that unsatisfactory riparian conditions exist. The determination of riparian conditions is based on annual inspections, photo points, Riparian Conservation Area delineation, and field reviews and observations by Forest specialists. Past roadwork, mining, and livestock use, can contribute to problems in riparian areas including unstable stream banks, head cutting, alluvial deposition, and a gradual decline in overall riparian health. Overall, riparian conditions on the allotment are satisfactory or are improving.

- 2) Specific Objectives for Native Fish & Stream
  - a) Objective #0851: “Reduce soil displacement and sediment contributions caused by grazing, and restore ground cover and stream bank vegetative composition in drainages with native fish habitat by adjusting grazing capacities and management for livestock.”
  - b) Objective #0623: “Restore bull trout habitat by reducing impacts from historical grazing within Paradise Creek sub-watershed to promote recovery of this listed species.”
  - c) Objective #0624: “Maintain the good bull trout habitat and upland conditions within the Emma-Axolotl, Johnson Creek, Narrow-Bluff, West Fork Big Smoky Creek sub-watersheds to promote recovery of this listed species.”
  - d) Objective #0630: “Maintain bull trout stronghold habitat where functioning properly and restore this habitat where degraded in Upper South Fork Boise River tributaries.”
  - e) Objective #0649: “Restore ground cover and stream bank vegetative composition, and reduce sediment contributions in degraded drainages with existing bull trout strongholds by adjusting grazing.”
- 3) Objective #0627: “Restore soil conditions on the South Fork Boise River Sheep Driveway.”
- 4) Objective #0634: “Restore elk sedge, forb diversity, and ground cover within the Alpine Meadows vegetation group due to impacts from historical sheep grazing.”
- 5) Maintain or improve stream bank stability to 90% of potential at DMAs.
- 6) Protect springs, seeps, or wet meadows where allotment inspections identify unacceptable grazing impacts. Many of these sites are isolated and not connected too much larger riparian areas that are associated with streams. When and where grazing impacts are excessive they will be mitigated by providing site protection or reduced exposure to livestock. The following desired conditions are identified as indicators of meeting this objective.
  - a) Native hydric vegetation typical for these sites are present and in good vigor.
  - b) Headcuts are not present.
- 7) Reduce grazing/recreation conflicts in dispersed camping sites. Public input and Forest Service observations will suffice to identify where this kind of conflict occurs. Once identified, corrective administrative actions can be initiated.
- 8) Eradicate the known noxious weed infestation within travel corridors by 2010. Maintain the rest of the allotment free of class I and II noxious weeds.

- a) A small infestation of Rush skeletonweed exists on the upper logging roads within the OP-Fletcher side of Skunk Creek Allotment. It has been and will continue to be treated annually; therefore newly discovered plants are expected to be treated every year with the intent of eradicating them each time they are treated. The objective for all newly discovered infestations, no matter which noxious weed, is eradication.
- b) Annually inspect and treat as appropriate the following areas:
  - i. Areas adjacent to known infestations
  - ii. High use dispersed recreation sites
  - iii. Material borrow sites
  - iv. Trail heads
  - v. South Fork Boise shipping corral

## ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

### **Forest Plan Standards & Guidelines Related to Sheep Grazing:**

The Sawtooth National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) approved in 2003 establishes the Standards and Guidelines (S&Gs) for managing the rangeland resource. S&Gs related to sheep grazing on the Anchustegui Allotment Complex are incorporated into this long term (AMP) and will be incorporated annually into the short term (AOI) management direction. The following S&Gs relate to proper grazing management of the Anchustegui Allotments:

### **Range Standards and Guidelines:**

1. Maximum forage utilization of representative areas (below) within each pasture shall not exceed the values shown at the end of the growing season. To achieve specific vegetative management objectives, variation in utilization standards can occur according to a site-specific or project-level decision (FSM 1922.5), (ST-01/III-45).
  - a) **Riparian Areas:** Maximum 45% use or retain a minimum 4-inch stubble height of hydric greenline species.
  - b) **Upland Vegetative Cover Types:** Early season or season long pastures = 40% use. Vegetative slow growth or late season pastures = 50% use (for example on a caattle allotment this would approximate 3" of residual stubble on key grasses such as bluebunch wheatgrass and Idaho fescue).
2. Livestock trailing, bedding, watering, and other handling efforts shall be limited to those areas and times that maintain or allow for restoration of beneficial uses including native and desired non-native fish habitat (ST-02/III-45).
3. New water developments, corrals, and other handling or loading facilities shall not be located within riparian conservation areas (RCA's), unless it can be demonstrated that these facilities maintain or allow for restoration of beneficial uses including native and desired non-native fish habitat (ST-03/III-45).
4. Livestock salting will be prohibited in RCA's. Trailing sheep will be salted only at bed grounds. Salt will be placed in containers and moved with the sheep (ST-04/III-45).
5. Only one night/one time use of bed grounds is allowed (ST-05/III-45).

6. Only open or loose sheep herding will be practiced, except where sit-specific vegetation management (e.g., noxious weed control or reforestation) is needed and has been prescribed (ST-06/III-45).
7. Only annual once-over sheep grazing will be allowed, with the exception of designated sheep driveways, travel routes, or where specifically authorized (ST-07/III-45).
8. Bedding of sheep and salting of livestock in plantations will be prohibited until plantation trees have grown to a size that reduces their susceptibility to damage from livestock (ST-08/III-45).
9. New, reconstructed or replaced livestock water troughs must provide wildlife escape from drowning (ST-09/III-45).
10. Trailing routes should be located outside of RCAs. Where driveways and trailing routes must pass through RCAs, they should be located and managed to minimize the extent and severity of degrading effects to soil, water, riparian, aquatic, and botanical resources (GU-04/III-46).
11. Where rangeland facilities or practices have been identified as potentially contributing to the degradation of water quality or habitat of aquatic species or occupied sensitive or watch plant habitat, facilities and practices causing degradation should be considered for relocation, closure, or changes in management strategy, alteration, or discontinuance (GU05/III-46).
12. Sheep should be routed to avoid slopes with loose soil conditions, active gullies, and snowbank areas that have low productivity or compacted conditions (GU-08/III-47).
13. Season-long grazing practices should be discontinued where they preclude restoration of upland or riparian vegetation communities (GU-09/III-47).
14. Where recreation prescriptions are applied, adjustments to grazing practices should be evaluated to resolve conflicts in areas of concentrated recreation use (GU-10/III-47).
15. The following situations should be examined when determining grazing capacities for individual or groups of allotments during project-level decisions. These guidelines are based on the assumption that typical management practices are occurring or will occur (for example, a deferred rotation grazing system): (GU-01/III-46).
  - a) Generally, in areas where native, desirable introduced, or introduced palatable species site productivity is less than 200 pounds per acre, they should not be included in the allotment grazing base.
  - b) Landtype Associations within Capability Groups 1-5 and 10. In areas where annual precipitation is 15 inches or more, the preferred course of action is to remove sites from the grazing base that have vegetation, litter, rock, and moss cover (ground cover) less than 60%. In areas where annual precipitation is less than 15 inches, the preferred course of action is to remove sites that have ground cover less than 40%.
  - c) Landtype Associations within Capability Groups 6-9 (landtypes with a moderately high or high susceptibility to erosion). Generally, sites with soil depths less than 10-12 inches, and/or sites with slopes between 25 & 50% that have vegetation and litter cover less than 60%, and/or sites where slopes are less than 25% that have vegetation and litter cover less than or equal to 40%, should not be included in the allotment grazing base.

## **Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, and Candidate Species (TEPC) Standards (ST)**

1. Livestock trailing, bedding, watering, and other handling efforts shall be mitigated by avoidance to address adverse effects to occupied TEPC plant habitat (ST-22/III-13).
2. New water developments, corrals, and other handling or loading facilities shall not be located within occupied habitat of TEPC plant species unless it can be demonstrated these facilities will not adversely affect occupied TEPC plant habitat (ST-23/III-13).
3. Livestock salting and/or bed grounds shall be located outside TEPC plant habitat so these plants will not be adversely affected by trampling (ST-24/III-13).
4. Mitigate, through avoidance, the adverse effects of livestock access or activities that may result in trampling of redds or disturbance of spawning or reproductive staging of ESA listed fish species (ST-25/III-13).
5. Mitigate effects to occupied TEPC plant habitat through avoidance designed into the grazing system and adjustments in the way livestock are handled (ST-26/III-14).

## **Wildlife Standards & Guidelines**

1. Big game requirements for space and forage have priority in the management of winter range within allotments (ST-07/III-27).
2. Areas should be protected from project related disturbance during big game calving and fawning (GU-12/III-28).

## **Anchustegui Allotment Complex Decision Direction**

1. Issue new ten year term grazing permit consistent with the Decision.
2. Based on monitoring and adaptive management actions, review permitted season and numbers following first grazing cycle and adjust permit accordingly.

## **Grazing Permit Terms and Conditions for Livestock Management**

1. As required by the Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and/or Annual Operating Instructions, the permittee will furnish sufficient herding to properly distribute sheep within the individual allotments.
2. Previously grazed areas must be kept livestock free.
3. Promptly remove and properly dispose of any livestock that have died within 300 feet of live streams, springs, or road-ways. Also remove dead livestock within 1/2 mile of all sites where human habitation occurs.
4. Keep herder camps neat and litter free. Remove excess hay and other feed material from camp before moving to the next camp location.
5. All predator control will be in accordance with Federal and State laws and regulations. No poison baits or M-44s are permitted.
6. Inform employees of the current fire danger and the permittee's fire prevention responsibility.
7. Hay infested with noxious weeds is not allowed on National Forest land. Hay that is fed on Forest land must be certified noxious weed free.



## Adaptive Management

Livestock grazing will be managed through an adaptive management strategy. Adaptive management is a strategy based on three principles:

1. Achievement of realistic, clearly defined objectives;
2. Ongoing monitoring to assess progress toward those objectives; and
3. Flexibility to alter management when adequate progress is not being achieved.

This management strategy is most appropriate in dynamic situations, where change is the norm. Change can be a characteristic of the management setting, or the result of management activities, or both. In such situations, adaptive management is the most efficient way to achieve desired objectives.

The Sawtooth Forest Plan recognizes that most physical, biological, social, and economic systems are dynamic and that management must be correspondingly flexible in order to be effective. The Sawtooth Forest Plan adopts an adaptive management approach (Forest Plan Record of Decision, pp. 6 -7, and Forest Plan, Volume 1, pp. 1-1, 1-3, and 4-5). The Proposed Action implements this management concept.

The adaptive management procedure is based on both annual grazing use and long-term monitoring to determine if management is achieving long-term management objectives. Establishing a relationship between annual grazing use and achievement of long-term objectives necessarily emphasizes use of end-of-season annual grazing use indicators, as well as long-term indicators of rangeland condition. Within-season annual grazing use indicators may also be established through the adaptive management process to determine when livestock should be moved from a grazing unit to achieve appropriate end-of-season grazing use levels and resource management objectives. Grazing use indicators are discussed on pages 17 - 20 of this document and in the Monitoring section of the AMPs.

Annual grazing use indicators (including Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines), both within-season and end-of-season, along with other required management practices, are a total package that, when implemented and adhered to, will result in a reasonable expectation that long-term desired condition objectives will be achieved.

The Allotment Management Plan (AMP) is the document that ties management direction and associated management actions to the achievement of long-term objectives. The AMPs for the allotments provide the link between monitoring and defining needed changes in management. The AMPs contain the specific objectives related to grazing use of the allotment, specific livestock management direction to be carried out to achieve these objectives (includes the grazing prescription and specific management actions, requirements and restrictions), monitoring requirements (includes specification of location, protocol and scheduling), other direction needed to achieve the specified objectives, and direction for changing or adapting management and monitoring requirements based on the results of annual and long-term monitoring.

The AMP may be considered as the implementation plan for the Forest Plan and decisions based on allotment analyses. The AMP is a working document that provides direction for both the

Agency and the grazing permittee. Adaptive actions may be needed and applied in both the short-term and long-term and may be implemented singly or as a set of management actions. Short-term actions will be implemented through the AOI. Modifications to the AMP and/or term grazing permit should be considered where monitoring shows that these actions need to be continued in the long-term or are implemented repeatedly or consistently over time. The AMP may be modified or adapted based on monitoring results without additional environmental analysis as long as the modifications are consistent with the existing decisions in accordance with NEPA. Typical AMP modifications include: changes to the grazing prescription (timing, intensity, and/or duration of grazing use), clarification of management direction and/or desired conditions to support Forest Plan and analysis decisions, and changes to monitoring plan (e.g. desired conditions based on site potential for specific monitoring sites, annual and/or long-term indicators to be evaluated, protocols, addition and or changes in monitoring site locations, etc.). Adaptive management as prescribed in this alternative is implemented through the AMPs use the adaptive management process. The AMPs provide:

1. Explicit definition of management objectives in terms of the desired condition for resources affected by livestock grazing.
2. Management direction and the grazing prescription including determination of appropriate indicators or limits on annual grazing uses.
3. Monitoring of both annual and long-term indicators related to the defined objectives and identified desired conditions. Monitoring of annual and long-term indicators generally should be conducted at the same monitoring location. The location should be chosen to determine the effects of and response to livestock grazing use and management. If possible, locations should be chosen that isolate grazing response vs. other resource uses and impacts.

### **Adaptive Management Actions**

The AMP is a component of the grazing permit that authorizes grazing use on National Forest System lands. The AMP implements management direction designed to achieve the goals and directives identified in the Forest Plan and decisions based on allotment level analysis.

Annually, Agency personnel meet with the grazing permittees to evaluate management activities and accomplishment of the grazing objectives. During these annual meetings, the previous year's grazing use and monitoring is reviewed, and annual operating instructions (AOI) are developed for the following grazing season. The AOI adapts management direction to the current conditions and expectations for the grazing season. The AOI sets the stage for the on-the-ground application of management direction for livestock grazing on the allotment. The AOI are used to implement direction within the context of the existing allotment level decisions and the Agency's administrative authority established by law and regulation. Actions implemented through the AOI must be consistent with the direction evaluated in the existing environmental analyses and/or the existing administrative authority of the Agency.

Adaptive management actions may be implemented as long as they are consistent with existing environmental analyses and related decisions and/or the administrative authority of the Forest Service. The administrative authority of the Forest Service is described in Title 36 of the Code

of Federal Regulations, part 222; and in Forest Service Manuals and Handbooks. Courses of action that would be considered if monitoring did not indicate progress toward desired future conditions, particularly in light of the constraints discussed above are described in the following section. Such changes would generally be determined in advance and documented in the AOI describing authorized management actions for the upcoming grazing season. Additional environmental analysis would not be required.

Adaptive management actions should be applied where:

- Monitoring shows management objectives have not been achieved or that trend towards achieving desired conditions is not improving or improving at an adequate rate. Monitoring plans are included in the AMP (Appendix C).
- Annual indicators of grazing use or grazing standards are not met.
- Climatic events, fire, flood or uses and activities detrimentally impact resource conditions and a modification of grazing use is needed to provide for recovery of the site.

Implementation of adaptive management actions will be consistent with the direction established in the December 19, 2005, Forest Plan Grazing Implementation Guide 1920/2200 Memo to District Rangers signed by the Southwest Idaho Forest Supervisors on Dec. 19, 2005 (USDA Forest Service, 2005). Adaptive actions may be needed and applied in both the short-term and long-term. Adaptive management actions may be implemented singly or as a set of management actions. Short-term actions will be implemented through the AOI. Modifications to the AMP and/or term grazing permit should be considered where monitoring shows that these actions need to be continued in the long-term or are implemented repeatedly or consistently over time.

The following table and list describe the probable actions that will be considered and implemented under adaptive management. However, it is not intended to exclude other actions which may be authorized by the grazing permit or under authority of 36 CFR 222, FS Manuals and Handbooks, and other laws and regulations as they exist or may be enacted.

**Table 1 - Potential Adaptive Management Actions:**

Potential Adaptive Management Actions	Authority
1. Modify the terms and conditions of a permit to conform to current situations brought about by changes in law, regulation, executive order, development or revision of an allotment management plan, or other management needs.	36 CFR 222.4
2. Modify the seasons of use, numbers, kind, and class of livestock allowed or the allotment to be used under the permit, because of resource condition, or permittee request.	36 CFR 222.4 (Change in livestock kind will require additional NEPA evaluation.)
3. Adjustments to sheep numbers and seasons of use.	EA & Decision
4. Implement periods of rest for the allotment or areas within the allotment.	EA & Decision
5. Closure of grazing areas within the allotment.	EA & Decision
6. Implementation of additional grazing restrictions.	Decision, FLRMP pp. III-

7. Includes: annual grazing use indicators (end of season and/or within season), salting practices, herding practices, and other management practices.	44 - 47
8. Alteration of trailing routes (timing and location).	EA & Decision, FLRMP pp. III-44 - 47
9. Adjust grazing to address conflicts with other resource uses.	FLRMP pp.III-44 - 47
10. Adjust grazing to provide for maintenance or restoration of aquatic and riparian processes and functions and beneficial uses.	FLRMP pp.III-44 - 47
11. Coordinate grazing with timber harvest and forest regeneration activities.	FLRMP pp.III-44 - 47
12. Structural range improvements and handling facilities (water developments, fences, permanent corrals, etc.	Will require additional NEPA evaluation.
13. Vegetation treatments (prescribed fire, brush control, seedings, etc.) implemented to achieve management objectives and desired conditions.	Will require additional NEPA evaluation.

### ***1. Modification of Terms and Conditions of the Grazing Permit.***

Term grazing permits may be modified at the request of the permit holder to adjust the permit to his/her ranch operation. It may also be modified to achieve consistency with changes in law and regulation, Forest Plan direction, environmental analysis and subsequent decisions based on that analysis, AMP direction, monitoring results, etc. Permit modifications are administrative actions and do not require additional analysis unless they are inconsistent with existing environmental analyses and subsequent decisions. Permit modifications may include the actions described below.

### ***2. Modify the seasons of use, numbers, kind, and class of livestock allowed or the allotment to be used under the permit, because of resource condition, or permittee request.***

This action may include changing the timing, duration and intensity of grazing use, class of livestock grazed (ewes with lambs, dry ewes, and rams), changes in allotment boundaries, etc. without additional analysis as long as these actions are consistent with current environmental analysis and related decisions. Changes in kind of livestock such as changing from sheep to cattle use will require additional environmental analysis. These changes may be implemented at the request of the permittee to adapt grazing to his/her ranch operation or they may be the result of monitoring and the need to adapt management to changing conditions using actions such as those described below to achieve resource desired conditions and or resolve conflicts in resource uses.

### ***3a. Modify Season of Use.***

As appropriate, adjust the season of use for the allotment or areas within an allotment to reduce grazing impacts. These actions include shortening the period of use to reduce or eliminate grazing impacts during periods where plants or other resources are most susceptible to damage, or avoid conflicts with other uses such as during periods of high recreation use. They may include: changing the season of use to avoid grazing impacts or conflicts with critical resource

needs of Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive species and other wildlife, adjusting the season of use at the request of the permittee to provide a better fit to his/her ranch operation, adjusting the season of use to take advantage of the availability of additional forage through extending the grazing season, and adapting the grazing season in response to seasonal variations in climate and productivity such as during periods of drought. Adjustments to stocking and season of use may be considered jointly or separately as appropriate.

### ***3b. Modify Stocking.***

As appropriate, adjust authorized or permitted livestock numbers during all or a portion of the grazing season to match grazing use to resource conditions and productivity. Adjustments to stocking and season of use may be considered jointly or separately as appropriate.

### ***4. Rest (i.e. closure to grazing for a full year).***

Rest the allotment or areas within the allotment for a specific period of years or on a periodic rotation where monitoring shows that trend towards achieving desired conditions are not stable, improving, or improving at an adequate rate. May also be implemented where fire, flood, etc; detrimentally impact resource conditions or where treatment activities require a period of rest to provide for recovery of the site. Where this occurs, specific recovery criteria for when grazing will be allowed, should be specified.

### ***5. Closure of Areas.***

Close areas where monitoring shows that desired conditions cannot be met while sustaining grazing use. This may include alteration of allotment boundaries or identification of specific areas within an allotment where livestock grazing will not be allowed. Modify the AMP and term grazing permit to identify the change in the allotment boundary or the area closure.

#### ***6a. Grazing Restrictions – Modification of Indicators of Annual Grazing Use.***

Annual grazing use indicators generally consist of measures of allowable grazing use including: forage utilization limits, woody species utilization limits, streambank disturbance limits, and soil disturbance limits. These indicators of livestock use may be modified or other indicators identified as needed to facilitate achievement of objectives and desired conditions. Levels of acceptable use such as forage utilization are set for some of these practices in the Forest Plan and/or the Anchustegui EA. Where specific allowable use limits are set in the Forest Plan or in the Anchustegui EA and Decision, they may be modified, if needed, to be more restrictive without additional environmental analysis.

Changes in end-of-year and in-season grazing use indicators will be made based on results of short-term and/or long-term monitoring. Indicators evaluated during monitoring are described in the AMP Monitoring Plan. Modification and/or implementation of these annual use indicators will be consistent with the direction established in the December 19, 2005, Forest Plan Grazing Implementation Guide (USDA Forest Service, 2005).

#### ***6b. Grazing Restrictions – Modification of Management Practices.***

This includes a range of management and herding practices that vary according to conditions and use that are found on individual grazing allotments. These practices may include specification of areas where trailing or open herding techniques are used, location of bedding, nooning, watering, and shipping sites, use of salt and mineral supplement, location and duration of use of herder camps, once-over grazing, open herding, one-time use of bed grounds, use limits around corrals, season and duration of use, etc.

#### ***7. Alteration of grazing routes.***

Alteration of designated trailing routes and route rotations to avoid resource damage, avoid use conflicts, reduce grazing pressure in specific areas, improve distribution, access unused grazing areas, facilitate shipping, or facilitate rest or deferred rotation grazing.

#### ***8. Adjust grazing to address conflicts with other resource uses.***

Modification of grazing use may be appropriate to prevent or manage conflicts with other uses such as dispersed recreation, coordinate with other management activities such as timber harvest and forest regeneration, or mitigate conflicts or impacts to other resources. Examples include management of impacts to roads and trails, herding and trailing practices around developed recreation sites, use of sheep grazing as a tool for noxious weed management and site preparation for reforestation, management of sheep camps, fire and noxious weed prevention, etc.

#### ***9. Adjust grazing to provide for maintenance or restoration of aquatic and riparian processes and functions and beneficial uses.***

This practice may involve use of the adaptive actions described in this section with the specific purpose of reducing grazing impacts or managing grazing use to achieve functioning riparian systems. The focus of these actions will be on ecological conditions or processes that may be impacted by grazing. They include managing for properly functioning riparian vegetation, bank stability, sedimentation, etc.

#### ***10. Coordinate grazing with timber harvest and forest regeneration activities.***

This covers three areas of coordination actions. First, the potential for physical conflict between grazing and timber activities (harvest, thinning, site preparation, etc.) as the timber activities are implemented; second, the potential for physical damage to tree seedlings on new plantations or regeneration sites; and third, the potential for using grazing for vegetation management and site preparation to facilitate timber stand regeneration and reduce competition from other vegetation, (noxious weeds, brush, etc.). Coordination may include changing use routes, closing or resting areas for periods needed for regeneration, adjusting grazing intensity to remove competing vegetation prior to planting, etc.

#### ***11. Range Improvements – Structural.***

Structural range improvements include construction of water developments, fences, corrals and other permanent livestock handling facilities, trails, bridges, etc. These actions may be proposed as adaptive management actions. Additional analysis will be required for these activities unless they are currently covered under existing environmental analyses in accordance with NEPA.

## **12. Vegetative Treatments – Nonstructural range improvements.**

Actions include implementing vegetation treatments to achieve desired rangeland conditions including prescribed fire, noxious weed treatment, seedings, aspen stand treatments, sagebrush manipulation, etc. These actions may be proposed as adaptive management actions. Additional analysis will be required for these activities, unless they are currently covered under existing environmental analyses such as is the case with noxious weed management activities.

## **III. LIVESTOCK GRAZING SYSTEM**

The existing Term Grazing Permit is for 900 ewes with lambs (2693 HMs) for the June 10<sup>th</sup> to September 8<sup>th</sup> season of use. Once the firming up period is past, there should be enough monitoring information to permanently adjust the permitted season or numbers in line with livestock carrying capacity. Permitted numbers of livestock or season of use may be adjusted during the next 4-5 grazing seasons as long as the 2693 HMs level is not exceeded. If the permitted level of grazing exceeds the allowable use standard and the desired Forest Plan conditions cannot be maintained, then the Forest Service will recommend a decrease in permitted numbers or length of season. The sheep will be grazed in a 6-pasture semi-deferred rotation system, starting on the lowest elevation Little Smoky Allotment. A possible variation, like occasionally adjusting the allotment entry date and location every third or fourth year will be considered to provide rest for the early entry Little Smoky Allotment. During the first week of September, sheep will be trailed about 5-6 miles on a daily basis to egress National Forest land. The trailing use occurs on the South Fork to Willow Creek sheep driveway and will be limited to a five-day period that starts at the South Fork Boise River shipping corral and ends at the Forest boundary located in Willow Creek.

Entry dates for Allotments will vary according to annual precipitation, forage production and utilization, and the permittee's needs. Compliance with S&Gs will require herders to keep track of and move sheep before standards are exceeded.

**Table 2 – Rest Rotation Grazing System**

<i>Year*</i>	<i>Little Smoky</i>	<i>Paradise/Calf &amp; Skillern</i>	<i>Skunk Cr &amp; Elk Creek</i>	<i>Elk Creek &amp; Johnson Creek</i>	<i>SFBR/LS/WC Driveway</i>
<b>2010</b>	<i>First</i>	<i>Rest</i>	<i>Second</i>	<i>Third</i>	<i>5 days</i>
<b>2011</b>	<i>First</i>	<i>Second</i>	<i>Rest</i>	<i>Third</i>	<i>5 days</i>
<b>2012</b>	<i>First</i>	<i>Third</i>	<i>Second</i>	<i>Rest</i>	<i>5 days</i>
<b>2013</b>	<i>Rest</i>	<i>First</i>	<i>Second</i>	<i>Third</i>	<i>5 days</i>

\*Repeat same sequence for 2014 – 2017

The Little Smoky Allotment will be grazed first every non-rest year but only for a short duration of no more than three weeks. Rest may be provided for this allotment if monitoring indicates a need for rest. This can happen easily by making the Paradise/Calf Allotment the first entry. Refer to Year 2009 in the above Table 2. Rest will be rotated between all six allotments (Little Smoky, Paradise/ Calf & Skillern, Skunk Creek & Elk Creek, and Johnson Creek Allotments). Third in

the sequence means deferred until after shipping which is around August 10<sup>th</sup> each year. Driveway time will take five days and will be restricted to major roads until the band needs to cross Ditto Flat on its way to the Willow Creek drainage.

## IV. RANGELAND DEVELOPMENTS

There are a few existing water troughs scattered throughout the Little Smoky, Skunk Creek and Paradise/Calf Allotments. Refer to the following table for an itemized list of these developments. The grazing fee computation formula is partially based on the assumption that permittees will maintain the range improvements within their allotment boundary. Consequently, unless exempted, the permittee is responsible for maintenance of all the structural range improvements located on the six Anchustegui sheep allotments. Maintenance means the timely repair or winterizing of management fences, stock water developments, corrals or other livestock facilities to a condition adequate to perpetuate the life of the facility and to make it fully functional. The Forest Service will normally provide materials for reconstruction of developments when needed. New improvement construction, when required, may be completed with the Forest Service providing materials and the permittee responsible for improvement construction. Materials for normal annual maintenance will be the permittee's responsibility.

Improvement maintenance is required before livestock are allowed onto the allotment or before they are moved to the succeeding pasture or grazing area. If this doesn't happen, permit non-compliance action will be considered by the District Ranger.

The following table exhibits the structural improvements on the Anchustegui Allotment Complex. This table will be updated periodically to reflect change.

**Table 3 – Anchustegui Allotment Complex - Structural Range Improvements**

Location	Development	WL Ramp	Cond.	Style	Size
SWNE Sec. 3 T3N R13E	Lower Fleck Summit Trough	Y	Fair	FG	100 ft.
NESE Sec. 25 T3N R13E	Little Smoky Trough	Y	Poor	FG	60 ft.
SENE Sec. 19 T4N R13E	*OP Creek Trough	Y	Poor	FG	??
SENE Sec. 30 T4N R13E	Little Skeleton Creek Trough	Y	Fair	FG	80 ft.
NEWS Sec. 3 T4N R13E	*South Boise Corral	NA	Good	WD	1 ac.

FG=Fiberglass, WD=Wood Unlisted range improvements remain your maintenance responsibility.

\* Shared maintenance with adjacent allotment permittees.

### **Structural Range Improvement Maintenance Responsibility**

#### **Stock water Developments -- Troughs, Pipelines and Stock Ponds:**

1. Maintain spring fences to the Forest Service standards described for fences and corrals.
2. Keep head box covers in place, and if missing or broken, replace them to prevent dirt, rodents, or forest litter from clogging water supply lines.
3. Repair pipeline leaks or replace damaged sections with materials similar to original.
4. Fill worn areas around troughs that become too elevated for lambs to get a drink.
5. Reset and level troughs that become uneven due to settling.



6. Water should not be allowed to overflow the trough sides. Keep the overflow inlet pipe clear of debris. Bury the over flow pipe 4-6" deep and cover the outlet with rocks to protect it from being squashed. Direct the overflow water an adequate distance away from the trough vicinity.
7. Protect the inlet pipe by anchoring the downhill end to the trough structure and bury the line at least 4 inches.
8. Install and maintain wildlife escape ramps in operating condition to keep small animals from drowning.
9. Drain and periodically clean troughs and storage tanks to prevent moss and sediment buildup.
10. When no further need exists during the current grazing season, drain troughs and pipelines that are prone to freezing damage.
11. As needed, maintain, repair or replace poles, posts and trough framing with similar material used in the original construction.

### ***Range Fences and Corrals:***

1. Splice and repair all broken wires in such a manner that fence tension can be maintained. Wire splices will be made with 12 gauge tie wire or with the type of wire used in the original construction. As needed, replace broken or rotten sections of log and pole fences.
2. Replace broken or rotten posts and braces if needed to maintain fence integrity.
3. Replacement posts must be treated with wood preservative.
4. Straighten or replace bent or broken metal posts and connect wire onto posts with the appropriate type of fastener.
5. Re-stretch wires when needed.
6. Replace broken stays and missing staples.
7. Completely remove trees that fall on fences and repair the resulting damage.
8. Keep corrals clean of trash, in good repair, and in useful condition.

## **V. MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

Monitoring is a key aspect of adaptive management. This section identifies specific monitoring protocols used to determine the need for management adaptation. If monitoring indicates the need for management changes (e.g., Forest Plan standards and guidelines aren't being met; resource conditions are deteriorating or are not making adequate progress towards achieving Forest Plan desired conditions and objectives; unacceptable user conflicts persist or are increasing, etc.), management will be adapted as appropriate and may result in the eventual modification of the term grazing permit. Likewise, if significant progress is realized in meeting AMP objectives and is confirmed by monitoring results, increased grazing use would be considered. If monitoring protocols, etc. described in this section do not provide information appropriate to determining achievement of management direction, or use conflicts occur which need to be evaluated with other protocols than those described, this section may be modified as part of adaptive management without additional NEPA analysis.

## **Aspects Common to Implementation and Effectiveness Monitoring**

The BLM multiple indicator monitoring protocol (Burton, *et al.* 2007) method may be used to establish or re-read permanent 100m monitoring transects for streamside riparian areas; this method is employed for both the implementation and effectiveness protocols described below. Monitoring locations and protocols are selected to evaluate specific annual grazing use indicators, resource conditions (desired condition) and resource trends. Note: Changes in the number of monitoring locations, indicators evaluated at specific sites, protocols, etc. may be made as part of adaptive management where additional needs are identified, better or more appropriate protocols become available, locations that better address desired conditions and annual grazing use are determined, etc.

### **Implementation Monitoring**

Annual grazing use will be monitored for complying with grazing standards; evaluating levels of forage use or other grazing use indicators; and checking for permit, AMP, and AOI compliance. Seasonal monitoring and allotment administration will include field reviews of grazing practices which may include inspections with permittees and their agents, review of annual grazing use information provided by the permittee, and pertinent information provided by Forest specialists working within the allotment. This information will be evaluated on a yearly basis to insure management deficiencies are corrected and to ensure management practices are maintaining or moving resource conditions toward their desired condition. The results of this monitoring will help determine the need for adaptive changes to livestock management.

Annual monitoring for resource conditions and permit compliance within the allotment will include an evaluation of livestock distribution and associated grazing impacts such as:

- Carry-over effects from previous year grazing.
- Presence of livestock in closed areas, outside the permitted area or the authorized season of use.
- Extent and location of impact areas (e.g. salting, nooning, bedding, and trailing).
- General patterns of utilization, or areas of concentrated use.
- Areas showing excessive impacts due to drought or other weather related influences (such as drying up of springs and seeps), heavy forage utilization, and obvious soil disturbance.

#### **Annual Monitoring**

<b>Type of Inspection</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
Livestock distribution	Periodic inspections will be conducted throughout the grazing season.
Range improvement maintenance	Inspections for improvement maintenance will be conducted in conjunction with other inspections.
Annual Operating Instructions compliance	Inspections for AOI compliance will occur at least twice during the grazing season.

Actual livestock grazing use will be documented and filed. Keeping track of the dates that livestock enter and leave each unit is the permittee's reporting responsibility and will be reported to the Forest Service no less than every two weeks or each time the sheep camp is resupplied.

## **Effectiveness Monitoring**

Effectiveness monitoring is used to determine if grazing management is effective in meeting the intent of the stated goals and objectives. This includes condition/trend monitoring of uplands, stream bank conditions and riparian vegetation communities. Designated Monitoring Areas (DMAs) are used to determine progress towards meeting Desired Conditions specific to vegetative communities. DMAs are established in key areas to determine progress in achieving management goals and objectives. Additional DMAs will be established as needed to monitor resource conditions potentially impacted by livestock grazing (See Appendix 3). Monitoring results will be used to determine if management practices need to be adapted.

## **Riparian**

### **Desired conditions:**

- Greenline successional status rating of 51 or greater (upper mid-seral or greater). (Winward 2000)
- Greenline Bank Stability Rating of 6 or greater (upper mid-seral or greater). (Winward 2000)
- Desired condition for stream bank stability is 90% of potential based on comparison to the Natural Conditions Data Base for the Salmon River Basin (Overton et. al. 1995).

### **Protocols:**

- Monitoring the Vegetation Resources in Riparian Areas, Winward 2000,
- BLM multiple indicator monitoring (Burton et. al. 2007)
- Pacfish-Infish Biological Opinion (PIBO) monitoring. Photo Points also qualify as monitoring at designated monitoring areas and they would be adequate to determine site conditions at most locations.
- Photo points will be established at each monitoring site.

### **Monitoring Locations:**

Designated Monitoring Areas may be co-located with an implementation-monitoring site. These locations are tentatively selected at Riparian DMAs.

Salt Creek - Skunk Creek - Johnson Creek - Elk Creek - Skillern Creek - Barlow Creek - Paradise Creek

Specific protocols will be established in 2010 based upon conditions and needs at each monitoring site.

### **Timing:**

Data collection at each DMA will be at three to five-year intervals.

## **Uplands**

### **Desired Conditions:**

#### Effective Ground Cover (EGC) for Upland Sites

Land Type	EGC (%)
R1	70-90
B1A	70-85
M3B	70-90
M6A	70-85
M4C	80-85
M2	80-95
M3C	80-90
M3A	70-90

#### Sagebrush Cover (Mountain Big Sagebrush)

Canopy Cover Class	0 to 10%	11% to 20%	>20%	>30%
Desired Sagebrush Cover	30 to 40% of area	30 to 40% of area	20 to 30% of area	5% or less

#### Protocols:

- Nested Frequency Plots (USDA FS et. al. 1996): These are established to provide quantitative measurements of frequency and ground cover. Frequency is a useful index for monitoring changes in vegetation over time.
- Line Intercept (USDA FS et. al. 1996): This measurement of crown canopy cover will be conducted along selected legs of the Nested Frequency Plots. These measurements provide an estimate of the relative cover of the shrub species.
- Range Environmental Analysis (USDA FS 1964-1983): Evaluation of rangeland condition, production, and apparent trend. Data will be collected on monitoring sites established during the 1960s.
- Photo-points : Taken during allotment inspections. After establishment, photos will be retaken at three to five year intervals using Hall 2002 protocol.

#### Upland Range Analysis Monitoring Locations:

Location	Site #	Year Last Monitored	Location		Protocol	EGC
Paradise/Calf	CJ-6	2002	N43°36.734'	W114°52.811'	NFreq	82%
Paradise/Calf	CJ-10	2002	N43°38.086'	W114°53.968'	NFreq	62%
Skunk Creek	CJ-13	2002	N43°40.696'	W114°56.182'	NFreq	67%
Elk Creek	CJ-14	2002	N43°43.950'	W114°53.605'	NFreq	75%
Paradise/Calf	CJ-17	2002	N43°42.065'	W114°52.758'	NFreq	56%
Skillern	CJ-18	2002	N43°41.536'	W114°49.362'	NFreq	72%
Skillern	CJ-19	2002	N43°39.982'	W114°50.719'	NFreq	72%

#### Timing:

Monitoring on these sites will occur as needed based on observed conditions of riparian vegetation responses to grazing. Generally the level of grazing use allowed on riparian areas

limits grazing impacts to upland sagebrush sites. If observations during allotment inspections indicate problems with upland conditions and use levels, these sites will be re-evaluated.

## **Effectiveness Monitoring for Aspen**

### **Desired conditions\***

- Aspen dominates the over story canopy (aspen > 8" DBH). Over 2/3rds of the over story is composed of aspen.
- Aspen dominates the mid-level canopy (aspen 1-8" DBH). Over 2/3rds of this level canopy is composed of aspen.
- There is significant aspen regeneration occurring to support a healthy stand. The stand has over 500 stems per acre < 1 inch DBH with less than 20% having multiple leaders or are hedged by browsing.
- Less than 20% of the stand contains sagebrush.

\*Note: While grazing has the potential to impact aspen stand condition, they are largely dependent on fire for maintenance or recovery to desired condition. Many aspen stands will require physical treatment by wildfire, prescribed fire, or mechanical means to achieve desired conditions. This AMP does not address implementing vegetation treatment programs other than what may be accomplished through controlling and managing livestock grazing.

### **Protocols:**

- "Utilization Studies and Residual Measurements," (USDA et. al. 1996,)
- "Browsed Plant Method for Young Quaking Aspen" (USDA 2004) may be used to collect utilization data for aspen. These methods provide data on age and form class, availability and hedging, estimated utilization by browsing ungulates and growth / use indices for the aspen component of the plant community.
- Stand condition may be visually estimated and described relative to the composition identified in the desired condition description (Aspen Desired Condition White Paper – Project Record) or protocol identified by the Region 5 Aspen Delineation Project Protocol for Recording Aspen Condition and Location (USDA FS 2002) may be used.

### **Location:**

Initial monitoring of this resource type will be ocular reconnaissance during allotment inspections. If issues (especially those related to livestock impact) are identified during these inspections, further monitoring will be implemented that more specifically measures the observed impacts. Based on monitoring data, remedial or preventive measures may be identified and implemented through the adaptive management process. As required, DMAs will be established to evaluate impact of livestock grazing on selected aspen stands if they are impacted by livestock grazing.

### **Timing/ Frequency:**

Utilization monitoring will be performed annually on selected stands. Stand condition evaluations may be made in conjunction with utilization monitoring; otherwise at a five year interval.

### **Monitoring for Non-Native Invasive Plants**

Monitoring and treatment of non-native invasive plants on the Anchustegui Complex Allotments will continue to be addressed under existing management strategies as part of the Noxious Weed Control Program for the Sawtooth National Forest. Inventory and treatment records will be maintained in the National Forest Service FACTS and NRIS Terra Data Bases. Treatment will be coordinated and carried out in conjunction with the South Fork Boise River and the Camas County Cooperative Weed Management Areas.

Noxious weed infestations are currently limited to a few very small localized areas on the allotments. Infestations will be treated annually until they are eradicated. Treatments, such as pulling or spraying, will be evaluated for effectiveness the following year at the time weeds are actually re-treated.

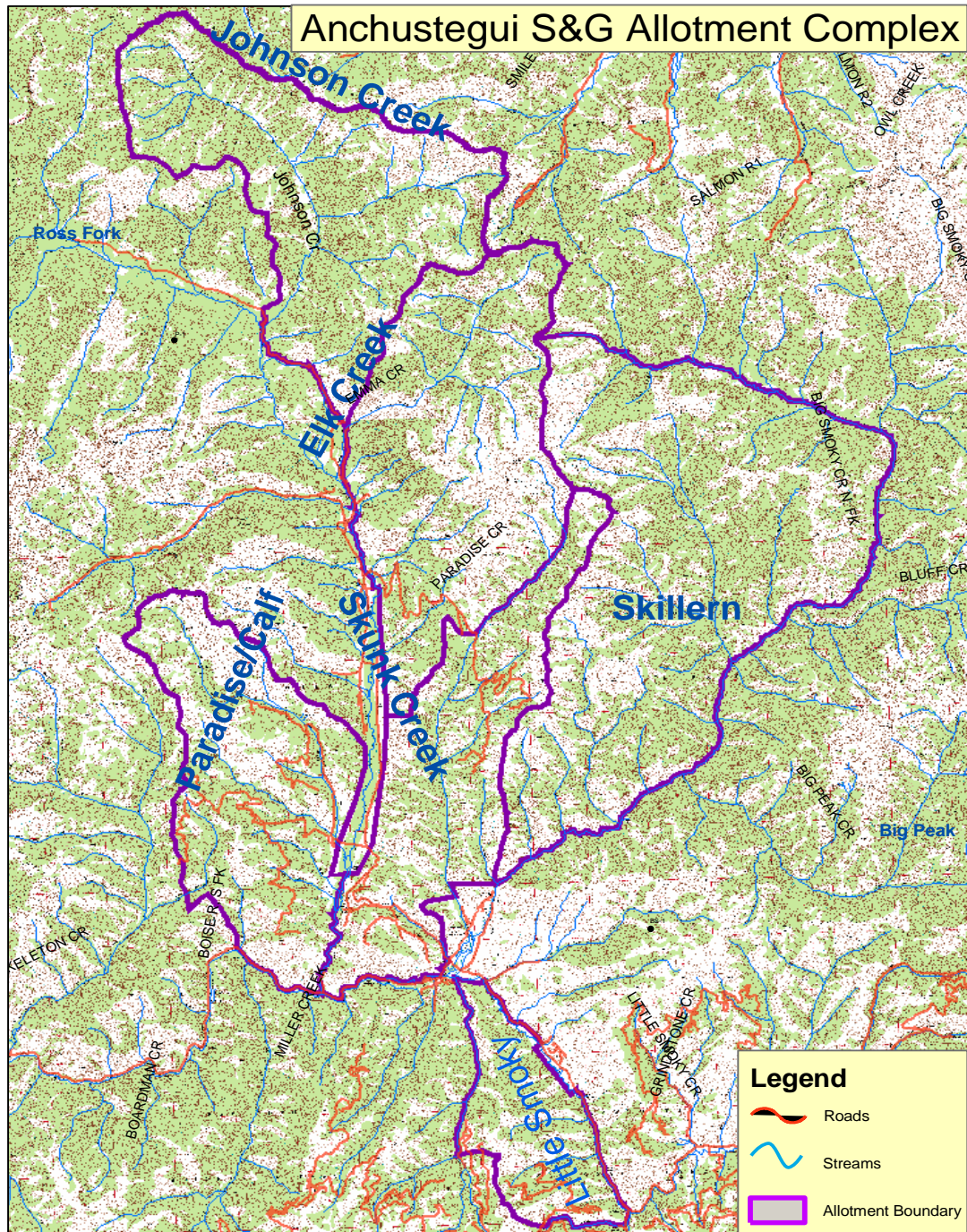
The FS will be responsible for inspecting and treating the following areas on an annual basis:

- Areas adjacent to known infestations;
- High use dispersed recreation sites;
- Material borrow sites
- Trailheads
- South Fork shipping corral area



## VI. AMP APPENDICES

### Appendix A: Maps



**Anchustegui Grazing Allotment Complex Vicinity**

## Appendix B: Citations

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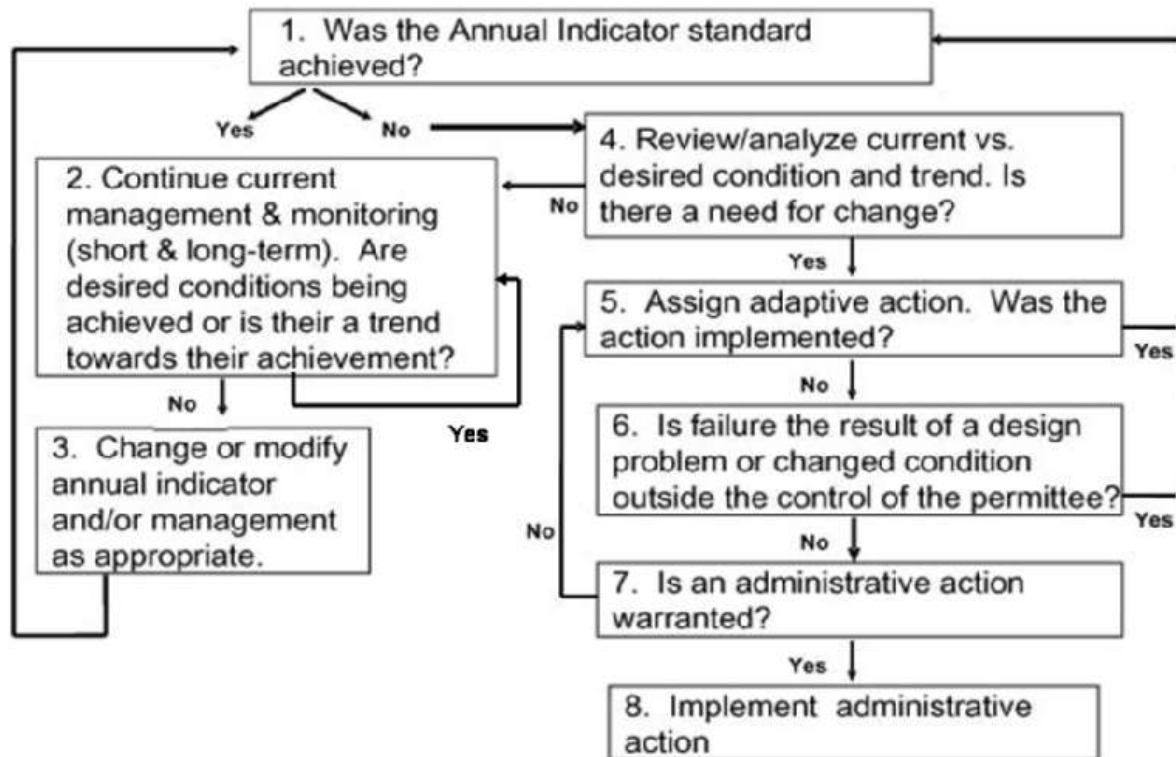


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Winward, Alma H. 2000. Monitoring The Vegetation Resources In Riparian Areas. Gen. Tech. Rep. RMRS-GTR-47. Ogden, UT. USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station.

## Appendix C: Adaptive Management Process

### Adaptive Management Decision Tree.



In Block 1, the grazing permittee(s) and/or land manager evaluates whether the annual grazing use indicator or standard was met. This assumes that the correct indicator and value was being used. These annual indicators are initially set in the Forest Plan (Forest Plan pp. III-45 through III-47) and the monitoring sections of the Allotment Management Plans (SEIS. App. C). The adaptive management process provides the opportunity to evaluate and adjust annual grazing indicators. As the adaptive management process is followed, indicators may be modified based on the results of annual and long-term monitoring.

This may be subject to re-evaluation later in the process.

- A. Annual Indicator or Standard is Met: If the annual grazing use indicator is met, current management will continue, including short- and long-term monitoring as indicated in Block 2.
- A1. Continue Current Management and Monitoring (Block 2): Long-term monitoring indicators are used to assess whether management objectives for resource conditions and values are being achieved. This data will be used over time to determine the effectiveness

of management direction and/or annual grazing use indicators in achieving the desired conditions. Note: The adaptive management process may begin with this block when long-term monitoring is completed and evaluated.

A2. Modify the Annual Indicator and/or Management as Appropriate (Block 3): If the desired condition objective is not being achieved, there is a need to change management and/or modify either the type or value of annual grazing use indicators being used. The primary situations that could lead to modifying annual indicators are. 1) When long-term monitoring results indicate that desired conditions are not being achieved. Along with other management changes, it may be necessary to change the indicator to a more restrictive use criterion. For example, if bank stability goals are not being achieved with a 4 inch stubble height annual use criteria, raising the threshold to require leaving a 6 inch stubble height after grazing use may be appropriate. 2) The indicator is not sensitive to achieving desired conditions. For example, using a stubble height use criteria may not adequately address recovery of willow species on a site. It may be more appropriate to add or change the indicator to a limit on browsing on seedling and young willow plants. 3) New resource issues or use conflicts surface. If areas are significantly disturbed by fire, flood, or other disturbances that significantly change resource conditions, new or additional use criteria may be needed. 4) When desired conditions have been achieved, criteria may not need to be as restrictive to provide for maintenance of resource conditions as when managing for recovery of resource conditions.

- B. Annual Grazing Use Indicator or Standard Is Not Met: If the grazing use exceeds the annual grazing use indicator or standard, proceed to the evaluation steps in Block 4.
- B1. Analysis and Determination of the Need for an Adaptive Management Adjustment (Block 4): If the grazing use exceeds the established annual grazing use indicator or standard, the resource manager, in consultation with the permittee(s) and others as appropriate, determine: 1) the potential cause for exceeding the standard, and 2) the significance of the excessive grazing use relative to its impact on the achievement of the desired resource conditions.

The resource manager, in consultation with the permittee(s), should determine whether the failure to meet the annual grazing use indicator is an infrequent occurrence or whether there is routine difficulty in meeting annual grazing use standards. A one-time occurrence due to some unique variable may not be significant and may not require further evaluation or adaptive management adjustments. Routine difficulty in meeting the annual grazing use indicator may indicate further evaluation and the need for adaptive management adjustments.

If further evaluation is warranted, comparison of the current condition with the desired condition should be made. If there is a large departure between current conditions and desired resource conditions, it may be fairly obvious that the need to achieve the annual use indicator is significant and that adaptive management actions are needed to provide for the achievement of the annual use indicator and meet long-term objectives.

While the evaluation of current versus desired conditions should be made with the use of long-term monitoring data, this information may not be available. In that case, utilize the best available information or complete a simple and rapid qualitative analysis to compare current conditions with desired conditions. While long-term trend and condition information is preferred, the lack of such information should not delay the evaluation of the current rangeland condition and needed adaptive management adjustments. Adaptive management adjustments should be temporary modifications until quantitative long-term condition and trend information is available to support permanent changes. If the resource manager's evaluation concludes that current conditions are close to desired resource conditions, then failure to achieve the annual grazing use indicator during that grazing season may not be significant in terms of achieving long-term objectives. In this case, adaptive management adjustments may not be necessary. Existing management and monitoring to achieve desired conditions would continue (Blocks 2 and 3). The exception to this situation may be where available information indicates that the long-term trend is negative, and adaptive management adjustments are needed.

If the resource manager's evaluation concludes that there is a significant gap between current and desired conditions and there is no indication of a positive trend, then the need for adaptive management adjustments are indicated.

Note: Determination of "large departure" may be either qualitative or quantitative depending on available information. Interdisciplinary teams or resource specialists may rely on personal experience, observations, and/or quantitative assessments to make this determination. Where available, quantitative data such as is found in the Natural Conditions Database (Overton et.al. 1995), could be used. For example, a bank stability rating that is greater than the standard error in the Database could be used to define "large departure". Where observational data is used for this determination, specialists should use photographs and/or descriptions of the observed conditions related to desired conditions to support the need for changing management and/or use indicators.

- B2. Development and Implementation of Adaptive Management Adjustments (Block 5): If adaptive management adjustments are warranted, the resource manager develops these actions in collaboration with the permittee(s) and others, as appropriate. The adaptive actions are implemented through annual authorizations or operating instructions issued by the resource manager. These actions typically include, implementation of additional or more restrictive annual use criteria; change in season, timing, or duration of grazing; changes in numbers of livestock; changes in herding or routing practices; changes in grazing rotations; closures or resting areas from grazing; changes in salting and watering practices, and changes in other livestock management practices and requirements. Once adaptive management adjustments are developed and assigned, the resource manager, in collaboration with permittee(s) and others, as appropriate, must assess whether the adaptive management adjustments were implemented as designed during the following grazing period.

If adaptive management adjustments were implemented by the permittee(s), then a determination as to whether these adjustments achieved the annual grazing use indicator would be made the following grazing period (Block 1). If the adaptive management adjustments were effective in achieving the annual grazing use indicator, then management and monitoring would continue as planned (Blocks 2 and 3). If they were not effective, then the resource manager, in collaboration with permittee(s) and others, as appropriate, must determine what additional adaptive management actions are needed (return to Block 5). Adaptive management actions considered in the proposed action are described below.

- B3. Adaptive Management Adjustment Not Implemented (Block 6): If the adaptive management adjustments were not implemented, the resource manager must determine if the failure results from a design problem or changed condition, outside the control of the permittee(s). If there were problems with the design or ability to implement the adaptive management adjustments outside the control of the permittee(s), the resource manager and/or permittee(s) would revisit the design or selection of the adaptive management adjustment (return to Block 5).
- B4. Determination of Non-compliance (Block 7): If failure to implement the adaptive management adjustment is not related to the design or inability to implement the adaptive action by the permittee(s), the resource manager would assess the need for an administrative action. If the resource manager determines that an administrative action is not warranted, additional changes or adaptive management direction should be considered (return to Block 5).
- B5. Issue Notice of Non-compliance (Block 8): If failure to implement adaptive management adjustments is an issue of permittee(s) performance and compliance or is repetitive, then take appropriate action under the grazing regulations (36 CFR Part 222.4), Forest Service Manual direction (FSM 2231.6), and Forest Service Handbook direction (FSH 2209.13 sec. 16 & R4 FSH 2209.13 sec. 16).